

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The restrictor flap 64 can be flexible, rigid, or resilient. Preferably, the restrictor flap 64 is a resilient material that deforms to permit passage of materials then springs back to its initial position closing the passageway 66. The restrictor flap 64 and support member ~~50~~62 in combination form the anti-splash member 26, which promotes the passage of material through the passageways 66 in the direction indicated by the arrows 52. At the same time, the flow of material is retarded in a direction opposite to the direction of the arrows 52. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, lines 8 and 9, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring now to Figure 5, another embodiment for the anti-splash member 26 is illustrated. In this embodiment, two or more restrictor flaps 64 are joined to the container 20 to define a single passageway 66, which is spaced away from the sidewall 68. The restrictor flaps 64 desirably are movable and resilient such that the passageway 66 opens and closes, although a fixed passageway 66 is possible and within the scope of the invention. In this embodiment, the passage of materials from the ~~collection~~receiving portion 22 into the ~~receiving~~collection portion 24 is between the restrictor flaps 64; rather than between the restrictor flap 64 and the sidewall 68. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, lines 17 and 22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring now to Figure 7, another embodiment of ~~the~~a container 20' and the anti-splash element 26 is shown. The anti-splash member 26 includes a membrane 70 having an outer perimeter 72 and at least one aperture 36, although more can be included as shown. At least a portion of the outer perimeter 72 of membrane 70 is joined to the sidewall 68. Each aperture 36 may be an opening(s), a hole(s), a slit(s), or other passageway(s) into the receiving portion 26 of the container ~~20~~20'. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, lines 4, 5, 10 and 12, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring to Figure 8, another embodiment of ~~the~~a container ~~20~~20" is shown. The container ~~20~~20" is formed from a first opposing member 40 joined to a second opposing member 42 defining a

top 44, a bottom 46, a side wall 68, and a pair of opposing sides 48. The opposing members, 40 and 42, respectively are trapezoidal in shape, and are joined along the pair of opposing sides 48, and along the bottom 46 of the container 20". The top 44 has an opening 50 formed therein, and the overall appearance of the container 20" is similar to a coffee filter. The container 20" also includes an aperture 36 and a seam 38 to form an anti-splash member 26. The collection portion 24 has a volume V1 that is less than the volume V2 of the receiving portion 22. The container 20" is shown disposed within a cross-section of a waste receptacle 74. The waste receptacle 74 can be a circular plastic pail frequently used with a commode. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, lines 15, 16, 17, 20 and 22, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The container 20" is provided with a pair of handles 76 to assist in removing the container 20 from the waste receptacle 74 after use, and to assist in transporting and disposing of the container 20 after use. The handles 76 are located on the pair of opposing sides 48, and are formed by cutting a slit 78 into the opposing sides 48 perpendicular to the edges thereof. The slit provides an opening for inserting a person's hand or fingers to grasp the container 20". It is also possible to form the handles 76 in another manner, such as cutting an opening in sidewall 68, or to attach an additional element to the container 20", which functions as one or more handles 76 for transporting the container. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, lines 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33 and 34, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring now to Figure 9, a process to manufacture the container 20" depicted in Figure 8 is illustrated schematically. Two wound rolls 84 of the laminate depicted in Figure 2 are unwound, and then webs W1W₁ and W2W₂ are plied together as they are guided by idler rolls 86 towards a thermal bonder 88. Webs W1W₁ and W2W₂ are unwound such that the barrier layer 30 of web W1W₁ is placed adjacent the barrier layer 30 of Web W2W₂. The thermal bonder 88 join webs W1W₁ and W2W₂ together forming the bottom 46, the pair of opposing sides 48, and the seam 38 of the container 20". The thermal bonder 88 forms a joined two-ply third web W3W₃ that is directed towards a die cutter 90. Alternately, web W3W₃ may be formed by printing hot melt adhesive to webs W1W₁ and W2W₂ to joined the webs together instead of thermal bonder 88. The die cutter 90 cuts the slits 78 for the container's handles 76, and cuts or scores web W3W₃ forming a plurality of containers. After die cutting, web W3'W₃' is separated into a series of individual containers 20" by a separator 92. The

individual containers 20" are then folded, stacked, and packaged by a folder 94, a stacker 96, and a packager 98. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, lines 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Referring now to Figure 10, the web ~~W3~~W₃' after thermal bonding and die cutting is illustrated. The web ~~W3~~W₃' is joined together in a repeating pattern by a plurality of thermal bond lines 100, and scored or cut into a repeating nesting pattern by a plurality of die cut lines 102. The individual containers ~~20~~20" are nested such that a subsequent container 108 is inverted relative to the proceeding container 106. Thus, along an edge 104 of web ~~W3~~W₃' an unjoined portion of web ~~W3~~W₃' forming the top 44 of the proceeding container 106 is followed by a joined portion of web ~~W3~~W₃' forming the bottom 46 of the subsequent container 108. By a "nesting pattern" or "nested containers" it is meant that adjacent thermally bonded container outlines on web ~~W3~~W₃ can be cut into individual containers by a single die cut line 102 to sever the opposing side 48 of a proceeding container 106 from the opposing side 48 of a subsequent container 108. It is possible to develop nesting patterns without alternating the orientation of the container. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, lines 13, 14, 18 and 20, with the following amended paragraph:

-- It is also possible to form multiple containers across the width of web ~~W3~~W₃' in nesting pattern in addition to the nesting pattern used along the length of web ~~W3~~W₃'. This can be done in one embodiment by thermally bonding and die cutting the nesting pattern shown in Figure 10 twice or more times across the width of a wider web than that illustrated. It is also possible to cut the individual containers with a die cut line 102 that leaves a perforation or otherwise only partially cuts the web ~~W3~~W₃' between individual containers. This may be desirable for a rolled form of the finished product. For this type of packaging, the separator 92, the folder 94, and the stacker 96, shown in Figure 9, could be eliminated. The product would then be wound into a conveniently sized roll, for instance a roll of twenty containers, by a winder. The wound roll of containers could then be packaged and dispensed for use similar to bathroom tissue or paper toweling. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, lines 24 and 25, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Utilizing a container 20, 20' or 20" with the bottom 46 of a smaller dimension than the top 44 not only provides improved flushing of the container 20, 20' or 20", but also reduces manufacturing waste since a nesting pattern can be used to thermally bond and die cut the individual containers. In addition to reducing waste, the nesting pattern allow for multiple containers to be made in both the machine direction and cross machine direction at the same time improving the productivity of the converting line.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, lines 30 and 34, with the following amended paragraph:

-- It should be pointed out the container 20₁ illustrated in Figure 1₁ can be produced by the process of Figure 9 since the exterior shape of the container will nest with a proceeding container when the subsequent container is inverted similar to the containers 106 and 108 of web ~~W3~~W₃ illustrated in Figure 10. It should also be pointed out that the dimensions and shape of the top 44, the bottom 46 and the pair of opposing sides 48 can be varied to develop other nesting patterns, and it is not required that the bottom 46 be of a smaller dimension than the top 44 for nesting, although it is preferred for flushability of the container 20. Such other nesting patterns for the containers are within the scope of the invention. --